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PROHIBITION OF THE DEVELOPMENT AND MANUFACTURE OF NEW TYPES OF WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION AND NEW SYSTEMS OF SUCH WEAPONS: REPORT OF THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

Report of the First Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Macaire KABORE (Burkina Faso)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The item entitled "Prohibition of the development and manufacture of new types of weapons of mass destruction and new systems of such weapons: report of the Conference on Disarmament" was included in the provisional agenda of the forty-eighth session in accordance with General Assembly resolution 45/66 of 4 December 1990.

2. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 24 September 1993, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include the item in its agenda and to allocate it to the First Committee.

3. At its 2nd meeting, on 14 October 1993, the First Committee decided to hold a general debate on all disarmament and international security items allocated to it, namely, items 57 to 75 and 77 to 82. The deliberations on those items took place at the 3rd to 14th meetings, on 18 to 22, 25, 26 and 28 October (see A/C.1/48/SR.3-14). Consideration of draft resolutions on those items took place between the 18th and 23rd meetings, on 3 to 5, 8 and 9 November (see A/C.1/48/SR.18-23). Action on draft resolutions on those items took place at the 24th to 30th meetings, on 11, 12, 15, 16, 18 and 19 November (see A/C.1/48/SR.24-30).

4. In connection with item 57, the First Committee had before it the report of the Conference on Disarmament. 1/

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 27 (A/48/27).

II. CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTION A/C.1/48/L.16

5. At the 19th meeting, on 4 November, the representative of Belarus, on behalf of Afghanistan, Belarus, Belgium, Canada, the Czech Republic, India, Italy, Kazakhstan, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Mongolia, the Netherlands, the Russian Federation, Slovakia, Ukraine, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Viet Nam introduced a draft resolution entitled "Prohibition of the development and manufacture of new types of weapons of mass destruction and new systems of such weapons: report of the Conference on Disarmament" (A/C.1/48/L.16), which was later also sponsored by Austria, Bolivia, Costa Rica, Denmark, Greece, the Philippines and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

6. At its 25th meeting, on 12 November, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.1/48/L.16 without a vote (see para. 7).

III. RECOMMENDATION OF THE FIRST COMMITTEE

7. The First Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Prohibition of the development and manufacture of new types of weapons of mass destruction and new systems of such weapons: report of the Conference on Disarmament

The General Assembly,

Recalling its previous resolutions on the prohibition of the development and manufacture of new types of weapons of mass destruction and new systems of such weapons,

Taking note of paragraph 77 of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly, 2/

Determined to prevent the emergence of new types of weapons of mass destruction that have characteristics comparable in destructive effect to those of weapons of mass destruction identified in the definition of weapons of mass destruction adopted by the United Nations in 1948, 3/

Noting that in the course of its 1992 and 1993 sessions the Conference on Disarmament considered the item entitled "New types of weapons of mass destruction and new systems of such weapons: radiological weapons",

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2/ Resolution S-10/2.

3/ The definition was adopted by the Commission for Conventional Armaments (see S/C.3/32/Rev.1).

Taking into account the sections of the reports of the Conference on Disarmament relating to this question, 4/

1. Reaffirms that effective measures should be undertaken to prevent the emergence of new types of weapons of mass destruction;

2. Requests the Conference on Disarmament, in the light of its existing priorities, to keep under review, with expert assistance, as appropriate, the questions of the prohibition of the development and manufacture of new types of weapons of mass destruction and new systems of such weapons with a view to making, when necessary, recommendations on undertaking specific negotiations on the identified types of such weapons;

3. Calls upon all States, immediately following the recommendation of the Conference on Disarmament, to give favourable consideration to these recommendations;

4. Requests the Secretary-General to transmit to the Conference on Disarmament all documents relating to the consideration of this item by the General Assembly at its forty-eighth session;

5. Requests the Conference on Disarmament to continue the practice of reporting the results of its consideration of these questions in its annual report to the General Assembly;

6. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-first session the item entitled "Prohibition of the development and manufacture of new types of weapons of mass destruction and new systems of such weapons: report of the Conference on Disarmament".

4/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 27 (A/47/27), sect. III.G, and ibid., Forty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 27 (A/48/27), sect. III.F.